



The Fall Vegetable Garden

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Fall gardens can offer high quality, fresh produce until frost. For a fall harvest, seeds can be sown or transplants installed in mid to late summer. Using fast-maturing varieties helps ensure a harvest before a killing frost. Central Ohio's first frost in fall usually occurs about mid-October, but frost can occur a couple of weeks earlier. Several weeks of milder weather can then follow.

Although fall can provide adequate moisture, high mid-summer temperatures will require regular irrigation for the young plants and seedlings until they reach maturity. To help, seeds can be planted about twice as deep as you normally would in a spring garden. To protect young plants from blazing sun and hot soil, a lightweight row cover can be placed over the row, or mulch can be placed around the plants... Seeds of lettuce, peas, and spinach will not germinate well when soil temperature reaches 85 degrees F and above, so shading will help keep soil temperatures lower.

Light mulch will also help keep the weeds down as they grow as well in hot weather as desired plants.

When ready to plant, remove all previous crop residues and any weeds. If spring crops were heavily fertilized, then no additional fertilization may be needed. However, 1-2 pounds of a general fertilizer, such as 12-12-12, may be applied per 100 square feet of bed area.

What crops can be planted for fall? First and foremost, plant what you want to eat. A beginner may want to avoid planting broccoli, Brussels sprouts, and cauliflower since they should be installed as transplants, and can be a little difficult to grow. They also require a little planning ahead if the transplants are to be started in the home. Seeds can be found at garden centers, ordered from seed catalogs, or seeds can be used that were leftover from spring plantings.

Remember to read the planting guide on the back of the seed packets.

FALL VEGETABLE PLANTING DATE GUIDE FOR SEEDS

PLANT	PLANTING TIME FRAME
Beans(snap)	Until August 1
Beets	August 1 through 15
Carrots	Mid-July through August 1
Collards	August 1 through 15
Dill	Sow by August 1
Kale	August 1 through 15
Kohlrabi	Sow about August 1
Lettuce	Sow around August 1
Peas	Mid- to late-July
Summer squash (Short Season)	August 1 through 15
Turnips	August 1 through 15

Transplants, such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower, can also be planted as fall crops. They generally have to be planted sooner than root crops (radishes etc.) and greens (lettuces, spinach). Cauliflower is sensitive to cold and shouldn't be planted late. Below is a guide for planting transplants of these vegetables.

Broccoli	July 1
Brussels sprouts	July 1
Cabbage	Mid-July
Cauliflower	July 1

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